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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

SAVA 73-162

16 August 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR: Brigadier General Brent Scowcroft, USAF  
Deputy Assistant to the President  
for National Security Affairs

SUBJECT : The 15 August UPI Story on Laos

1. After our second telephone conversation on 15 August, [redacted] the gist of the 15 August UPI ticker item alleging that Communist troops had launched heavy attacks on the government positions around Dong Hene and at Pak Song. I explained that official traffic available in Washington did not substantiate this story and asked them for their detailed comments.

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2. [redacted]. As I suspected was the case, the UPI story seems to be both garbled and exaggerated. Local action has been in train around Dong Hene for a week or so, but there was no heavy post-bombing halt North Vietnamese attack. As you will see, the Pak Song portion of the UPI story seems almost completely fictitious.

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George A. Carver, Jr.

George A. Carver, Jr.  
Special Assistant for Vietnamese Affairs

Attachment

O/DCI/SAVA:GACarver, Jr/mee

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16 AUGUST 1973

1. STATION HAS NO INFORMATION TO SUBSTANTIATE ANY PORTION OF UPI REPORT CITED REFERENT'.

2. THERE HAS BEEN NO SERIOUS FIGHTING IN THE PAK SONG SECTOR OF MR IV FOR THE PAST FIVE MONTHS. PAK SONG ITSELF HAS BEEN UNDER ENEMY CONTROL SINCE EARLY AFTERNOON 22 FEBRUARY, AND THE NVA 9TH AND 19TH REGIMENTS CURRENTLY CONTROL THE NORTHWEST/NORTH-CENTRAL PORTIONS OF THE BOLOVENS. THERE HAVE BEEN NO INDICATIONS OF NVA INTENTIONS TO RESUME <sup>OFF</sup> ~~DEF~~ENSIVE IN THIS AREA.

3. THERE HAS BEEN SOME INCREASE IN LOCALIZED SKIRMISHING IN THE DONG HENE SECTOR OF MR III, BUT THIS APPEARS LARGELY THE RESULT OF ENEMY REACTION TO A FAR CLEARING OPERATION DOWN ROUTE 9 FROM SENO TO DONG HENE. THE SPEED AND PRECISION OF THE FAR THRUST APPEARS TO HAVE SURPRISED THE ENEMY AND PERHAPS CREATED THE FALSE IMPRESSION THAT GOVERNMENT FORCES INTENDED TO PRESS EASTWARD TO MUONG PHALANE.

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4. THE ONLY OTHER ACTIONS OF LATE WHICH MIGHT POSSIBLY ACCOUNT FOR THE UPI STORY HAVE OCCURRED IN SOUTHEASTERN MR II, THE SO-CALLED "SPARTACUS" AREA OF OPERATIONS. [REDACTED] FRIENDLY POSITION AT VF 1082 CAME UNDER ENEMY SHELLING AND GROUND ATTACK 9 AUGUST, BUT FRIENDLY COUNTERATTACKS FORCED ENEMY TO WITHDRAW. ON 12 AUGUST, ANOTHER CLASH DEVELOPED VICINITY VF 055864 RESULTING IN A REPORTED SIX ENEMY KIA AND THE FRIENDLY FORCE WITHDRAWING TO VF 041865. NO FRIENDLY CASUALTIES WERE REPORTED IN EITHER OF THESE ACTIONS.

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5. ASIDE FROM FOREGOING, CEASE-FIRE IN LAOS CONTINUES IMPRESSIVELY WITHOUT SERIOUS INCIDENTS, EXCEPT IN MINDS OF JOURNALISTS SUCH AS REF CITED.

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PAGE 02-02

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INTENDED TO PRESS EASTWARD TO MUONG PHALANE.

4. THE ONLY OTHER ACTIONS OF LATE WHICH MIGHT POSSIBLY ACCOUNT FOR THE UPI STORY HAVE OCCURRED IN SOUTHEASTERN MR II, THE SO-CALLED "SPARTACUS" AREA OF

25X1 OPERATIONS. [REDACTED] FRIENDLY

POSITION AT VF 1082 CAME UNDER ENEMY SHELLING AND GROUND ATTACK 9 AUGUST. BUT FRIENDLY COUNTERATTACKS FORCED ENEMY TO WITHDRAW. ON 12 AUG. ANOTHER CLASH DEVELOPED VICINITY VF 055864 RESULTING IN A REPORTED 6 ENEMY KIA AND THE FRIENDLY FORCE WITHDRAWING TO VF 041865. NO FRIENDLY CASUALTIES WERE REPORTED IN EITHER OF THESE ACTIONS.

5. ASIDE FROM FOREGOING, CEASEFIRE IN LAOS CONTINUES IMPRESSIVELY WITHOUT SERIOUS INCIDENTS, EXCEPT IN MINDS OF JOURNALISTS SUCH AS REF CITED. E2 IMPDET.

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PAGE      OF      PAGES

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"GOVERNMENT SOURCES"  
ATTACKS ON GOVERNMENT

1. DR. KISSINGER'S OFFICE IS DISTURBED ABOUT 15 AUGUST UPI  
STORY FROM VIENTIANE WHICH CLAIMS UNIDENTIFIED "GOVERNMENT SOURCES"  
ARE SAYING THAT "COMMUNIST TROOPS HAD LAUNCHED ATTACKS ON GOVERNMENT  
POSITIONS AROUND DONG HENE, ON ROUTE 9 IN SOUTH CENTRAL LAOS, AND  
AT PAK SONG, FURTHER SOUTH NEAR THE BOLEVENS PLATEAU. THE SOURCES  
SAID SEVERAL ~~GO~~ GOVERNMENT POSITIONS WERE OVERRUN IN THE PAK SONG  
FIGHTING. THEY SAID THAT PATHET LAO APPARENTLY WAS CARRYING OUT  
THE ASSAULTS IN AN ATTEMPT TO GET THE VIENTIANE GOVERNMENT TO  
AGREE TO THEIR TERMS FOR A COALITION GOVERNMENT."

2. WE HAVE NOTHING IN OFFICIAL TRAFFIC THAT WOULD SUBSTANTIATE THIS SCARE STORY, THOUGH THERE HAS BEEN SOME [REDACTED] DISCUSSING FIGHTING AROUND DONG HENE ON 13 AUGUST. WE NEED YOUR COMMENTS ON ABOVE UPI ACCOUNT. IF IT IS ACCURATE, WOULD APPRECIATE PARTICULARS. IF NOT, PLEASE CONFIRM THAT IT IS AN EXAGGERATION.

3. REASON FOR URGENCY IS THAT IF HEAVY ATTACKS HAVE IN FACT BEEN LAUNCHED JUST AFTER 15 AUGUST CESSATION OF BOMBING,

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PAGE OF PAGES

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ADMINISTRATION WISHES TO MAKE STRONG PUBLIC STATEMENT. WE SUGGESTED THAT WHITE HOUSE HOLD FIRE UNTIL WE HAD CHECKED WITH YOU. HENCE, DR. KISSINGER'S OFFICE IS VERY ANXIOUS TO GET YOUR COMMENTS. E-2, IMPDET. WN-SISM.H

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DATE 15 AUGUST 1973

ORIG GACARVER, JR.

UNIT DCI/SAVA

EXT 5464

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COORDINATING OFFICER

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GEORGE A. CARVER, JR. SAVA

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15 August 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ACTING DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: Leave Plans

1. This is to confirm in writing some leave plans which you have orally authorized. At this moment, I plan to take leave from COB Friday, 17 August to OOB on Tuesday, 4 September.

a. The first part of this span (from Saturday, 18 August through Friday, 23 August) I will be at home in Great Falls and, of course, would be available if needed.

b. We intend to leave home on the morning of Saturday, 24 August for a beach cottage north of Nag's Head in North Carolina, remaining there until Labor Day morning and driving back home on that day, 3 September.

2. The first week I am gone, [ ] will act for me since [ ] has had to be in New England with his children under a somewhat complex visitation arrangement set up a long time ago and not subject to change. (As you know, [ ] is divorced and his wife has custody of the children.) [ ] will be back the second week of my absence, but I will probably have [ ] continue to act for me since [ ] is slated to transfer back to the East Asia Division on 4 September. [ ] is extremely competent and you can have complete confidence in his ability to handle anything that arises.

3. I assume this is still agreeable to you, but did want to get the above plans formally confirmed before I carried them out.

George A. Carver, Jr.

George A. Carver, Jr.  
Special Assistant for Vietnamese Affairs